

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A sterilizer composition having a pH value of 1 to 5 ~~less than 7~~ at 25°C and comprising water and an organic peracid obtained by reacting (A) an ester of a polyhydric alcohol and an organic acid having a hydrocarbon group which may have a hydroxyl group with (B1) hydrogen peroxide in an (A)/(B1) molar ratio of 1/10 to 20/1 in water at pH 8 to 12.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The sterilizer composition according to claim 4, wherein the content of hydrogen peroxide is 0.5 wt% or less.

7. (Currently amended) The composition according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, wherein the polyhydric acid constituting (A) is a C2 to C12 polyhydric alcohol.

8. (Currently amended) The composition according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, wherein the organic acid constituting (A) is a C1 to C8 fatty acid.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method of sterilizing a material to be sterilized, which comprises contacting, with a material to be sterilized, an aqueous solution containing an organic peracid obtained by reacting (A) an ester of a polyhydric alcohol and an organic acid having a hydrocarbon group which may have a hydroxyl group with (B1) hydrogen peroxide in an (A)/(B1) molar ratio of 1/10 to 20/1 in water at pH 8 to 12, and then adjusting the reaction system to pH 1 to 5 ~~less than 7~~.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The sterilizing method according to claim 10, wherein the content of hydrogen peroxide is 0.5 wt% or less.

13. (Currently Amended) A process for producing an organic peracid, which comprises a step of reacting (A) an ester of a polyhydric alcohol and an organic acid having a hydrocarbon group which may have a hydroxyl group with (B1) hydrogen peroxide in an (A)/(B1) molar ratio of 1/10 to 20/1 in water at pH 8 to 12, and then adjusting the reaction system to pH 1 to 5 less than 7.

14. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a sterilizer composition, which comprises a step of reacting (A) an ester of a polyhydric alcohol and an organic acid having a hydrocarbon group which may have a hydroxyl group with (B1) hydrogen peroxide in an (A)/(B1) molar ratio of 1/10 to 20/1 in water at pH 8 to 12, and then adjusting the reaction system to pH 1 to 5 less than 7.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 14, wherein the content of hydrogen peroxide in the sterilizer composition is 0.5 wt% or less.

17. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~[[13]]~~ 14, wherein the polyhydric alcohol constituting (A) is a C2 to C12 polyhydric alcohol.

18. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~[[13]]~~ 14, wherein the organic acid constituting (A) is a C1 to C8 fatty acid.

19. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 13, wherein the reaction of (A) with (B1) in water at pH 8 to 12 is carried out at 5 to 50°C for 1 to 120 minutes.

20. - 21. (Cancelled)